



# Food and Drugs Authority

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The News Editor

Dear Sir/Madam,

**PRESS RELEASE: FALSE ALARM - ANTIMALARIAL DRUGS REMOVED FROM THE EU MARKET**

It has come to the notice of the FDA that a post is circulating on social media with a list of antimalarial drugs that had been removed from the EU market purporting that they have been proven to be dangerous and the cause of kidney failure.

Malaria is very rare in Europe and therefore the list circulating on the social media cannot be found in the European Medicine Agency as registered products for the European Union.

The FDA wishes to inform the general public that the information is false and should be disregarded.

It is worth noting that antimalarial single active ingredient formulations (mono therapies) are not used in Ghana for the treatment of malaria, except oral quinine tablets and suspensions for complicated malaria and Artesunate suppositories. The change of policy to combination therapy was not due to kidney failures as stated in the post but rather due to resistance leading to poor treatment outcomes.

Additionally, the FDA, as the National Pharmacovigilance Centre (a member of the WHO Programme for International Drug Monitoring since 2001) has in place a robust system that monitors the safety of products that are used in the country and works closely with the National Malaria Control Programme, Health facilities and Community Pharmacies.

Kidney disease is not an adverse effect linked with any of the medicines mentioned in the post and spontaneous monitoring has not picked kidney disease as a safety concern.

The FDA periodically samples and performs analysis of antimalarial in its ISO accredited laboratory to ensure they are of the right quality.

The general public is therefore advised to disregard the information and continue to use the artemisinin combination therapy as being administered under the National Malaria Control Programme.

The FDA wishes to further encourage the general public to provide information on any activities that are likely to endanger public health and safety with respect to FDA's

mandate through any of the following numbers; TOLL FREE NUMBER 0800151000 (free only on Airtel and Vodafone), HOTLINES (0299802932/0299802933), and SMS SHORT CODE 4015 (all networks except Glo).

You may also reach us through these additional numbers 0244337235, 0244571563 and 0208204968.

The FDA is also assuring the general Public of its continuous resolve to protect public health and safety at all times through collaboration with National and International Agencies.



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